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February 22, 1952

Dear Mr. President:

I have the honor to submit a report on the organization and work of the Psychological Strategy Board from the time of my appointment as Director in July, 1951, until the present time.

Please accept my apology for the delay involved, which has been due rather to pressure of duties than to neglect. I resumed my full responsibilities at the [Redacted] [Redacted] on January first, and have also continued as a part time consultant to the Board and Director.

I am happy to inform you that the Board and its staff have filled a real need in our government and are now working with considerable promise of success.

In the first months of the Board's existence they have:

1. Stimulated activities within the government to develop a vigorous and successful psychological effort designed to further our national policies for peace and freedom.

2. Brought together the various agencies of government to concert their efforts in support of such policies.

This progress has been made possible by the cooperation of the Board members themselves and the staffs of the different departments and agencies, notably the Department of State, the Department of Defense and the Central Intelligence Agency.

Though this favorable start has been made, much remains to be done. I have had to leave to the new Director and his staff many problems of organization and procedure as well as the substantive problems which will always call for fresh thought and effort.

The experience to date has also suggested the necessity of some changes which I strongly recommend that you make at the earliest opportunity.

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I wish to take this opportunity to record my appreciation of the help I have received from the officers of many government departments and agencies and of the loyal cooperation given me by the members and the staff of the Psychological Strategy Board.

I am indebted to members of the staff for assistance in the preparation of this report, and especially to [redacted]

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I would recommend to you publication of the attached document, other than the annexes, which are of a classified nature.

Respectfully,

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The President

The White House

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## REPORT TO THE PRESIDENT

We face today one of the great convulsions of history. The world in which we live is being changed by strong currents of thought and feeling -- currents released by the American and French Revolutions in the 18th Century, by the Industrial Revolution in the 19th and by two destructive wars and the Russian Revolution in our own time. This is no longer the world into which most of us were born. We may be sure that it will be a far different world before we die.

In this time of crisis and stress, the American nation has risen to a new role. We may speak of this role without vanity or self-consciousness because we did not seek it but rather tried to avoid it. Our role, as we have now expressed it in our national policies, is to help lead the nations through this time of turmoil in such a way that in the end there shall be an expansion -- not a reduction -- of the areas of freedom and knowledge. Expressed in another way, our role is to build a bridge over the abyss of confusion and frustration so that humanity may safely cross. If we can succeed in this role, the peoples of the world may be spared the sacrifice of human life and achievement which accompanied other great convulsions of history, and each nation may find release for its energies and genius in an era of peace and human dignity.

It will not be easy for us to play this role. For apart from the natural flow of historical forces, we know that the leaders of another great power have determined to exploit the trials of this period to the full. Years ago the men in the Kremlin sensed the approach of this turning point in human affairs. Today they are working, scheming, to intensify the strains, compound the chaos and ride the currents of nationalism, social unrest and despair to their ultimate goal of a world serving the ends of the Kremlin. Their strategy might be condensed into three words: Ruin and rule.

Our reaction to this drive for world power was slow, but when it came, it took the form of an idea. This idea -- at first expressed in the Truman Doctrine and the Marshall Plan -- was basically as simple as this: America will help those who, believing in freedom, help themselves and help each other. Behind the force of this idea we put our economic and industrial strength. To the countries which showed a will to survive and to cooperate, we sent food, machines to grow more food, and still more machines to produce everything from shoes to electricity. We sent them our technical experts to raise production in their factories and on their farms,

to drain swamps, to dam rivers, to drive out malaria and other diseases, to teach the three r's. When the allies and types of the Kremlin spread lies about this effort, we launched a campaign of truth over the air waves, in newspapers, in films, in public meetings. Then we helped our friends in the free world to raise a defensive shield over this peaceful effort.

Our economic help, our information program, our defense effort — if wisely used — are indispensable parts of the American program for bridging this period of upheaval. But the relentless assault of the Kremlin upon the bridge has demonstrated the need of another element. This missing element is an integrated psychological strategy.

There are practical and compelling reasons why we should make the fullest use of our resources in ideas and imagination, why we should make certain that all our sacrifices are directed toward the attainment of clearly defined ends. We must think in terms of preserving our country's economic, as well as moral, fiber in order to continue successfully our role of leadership.

 Our aim is peace — not war. Though a protective shield is necessary to peace in a world threatened with war, we cannot indefinitely pour out our resources for economic and military aid, and preserve our own strength. We must use our ingenuity to find less costly means to produce situations of strength which will reduce the possibilities of war and simultaneously serve to shorten the present conflict.

In doing so, we must make it clear to those who are our friends, and to those who would be our friends, that we not only abhor militaristic imperialism, but also that we disclaim cultural and intellectual imperialism as well. The only rule we seek is the Golden Rule.

### THE BACKGROUND

Toward the end of the first World War, a Russian revolutionary leader conceived the idea of a kind of struggle which would be "neither war nor peace." That leader was later disposed of by his less inventive comrades, but they eventually found merit in his idea and resolved to adapt it to the convulsive situation which would follow the second World War. Today the world knows the meaning of their choice -- an assault which stops short of general war, carried out under the cloak of an unnatural peace.

That assault began, in fact, before the second World War was over. As the armies of the Western Allies advanced, the forces of international Communism set to work in their rear to poison the minds of the liberated against the liberators, to turn the free nations against each other, to seize positions of power, and to break down the prestige of the United States. And while the victorious nations of the West were disbanding their armed forces, the Kremlin's men in every country were moving to battle stations in preparation for the "final struggle" so long foretold in Communist song and fable.

In blaming ourselves for what came after, we often overlook the fact that the leaders of Bolshevism had been training themselves in this kind of combat for a good half-century. Within their own country, they had graduated from the hard school of conspiracy and revolution. After their seizure of power in Russia, their institutes of political warfare had schooled foreign fanatics in the techniques of infiltration, subversion and the conquest of power. Throughout the world they had built up networks of agents who would move at the word of command to carry out an assassination or foment a civil war.

There was no great element of genius in the Kremlin's effort, but that effort had mass and momentum and a fanatical persistence. And although Communism had lost much of its power to convert, the Soviets still retained ample power to confuse. The classic rule of imperialism, "Divide and conquer" guided much of what they did. Nation against nation, race against race, man against man -- this was their stock in trade. They knew, of course, how to take advantage of men's vices, but they found it just as profitable to appeal to men's virtues. They twisted honest labor, shook down timid employers, lured unwary churchmen into furthering their strategy of confusion. They even found a way to use the word "peace" as a weapon of assault.

The advantage in warfare accrues to the aggressor. In the disillusionment, the weariness, the confusion of the post-war world,

the forces of Communism advanced confidently toward the ultimate goal set by the Soviet leaders -- a world responsive to the Kremlin.

Inevitably the leadership of the assaulted peoples imposed itself upon the United States, for we were the one great power which had come out of the war with reserves of moral and material strength. But by temperament and by tradition we Americans were ill-fitted for this kind of struggle. We fight wars the way we play football. We want to win, tear up the goal posts and then go home. We found it hard in 1945 -- we find it hard today -- to comprehend that peace may be made an extension of war by other means. We called back our fighting men and returned them to their homes, thus exposing Europe and Asia to Soviet blackmail. We all but dismantled our wartime information services, thus opening the world to the Soviet lie. As a nation we tried to reverse time and rediscover the peaceful existence of the years before the war.

Thus nearly two years passed before we began to face up to the responsibility of leadership which had come upon us.

When we did react, we moved one step at a time. First we pledged our support to Greece and Turkey, two nations which were holding the gates of the Near East in the face of increasing pressure from Communism. Then, when the Kremlin strategists shifted the weight of the Communist assault to Western Europe, we launched the Marshall Plan and brought together 16 nations to work for European recovery. With the aid of these nations we set Western Germany on the road to rehabilitation, and when the Soviets set siege to the free city of Berlin, we and our British allies improvised the airlift and saved that outpost of freedom. Next we moved to the aid of Yugoslavia, whose government had defied the Kremlin, and we were successful to this extent in rolling back the iron curtain. In the following years, together with our European allies, we began to raise a protective shield over the work of recovery.

Though we had started out without a long-range plan or blueprint, the net result of all these efforts was a solid piece of construction. A wall against Communist aggression was erected from the Black Sea to the North Cape of Norway. Even more important for the long run, we and our allies had set great ideas in motion -- the ideas of the Atlantic Community, of European Union, of a coal-steel pool for Western Europe, and of a European army.

Balked in Europe and the Near East, the Communist strategists turned the main force of their assault to Asia. Even there, where human misery was great and the old order in decay, the power of Communism as an idea had to be backed by the force of arms and a spurious appeal to nationalism. The Chinese Communist armies advanced

across China until they had conquered the mainland and stood at the gates of Southeast Asia. At the same time, Communist forces, ranging from guerrilla bands to mass armies, brought terror to Indochina, Malaya, Burma, and the Philippines.

Then the North Korean Communists launched an open attack upon the Republic of Korea, a ward of the United Nations. This was a challenge to the United States in the first instance and to the free world as a whole. If it had not been squarely faced, it would have opened the floodgates of disaster in Asia. But the United States faced it, and, backed by the United Nations, repulsed the North Koreans and the Chinese Communists who had joined them. This military success may well have been a turning point. It was supplemented by a great diplomatic achievement in the face of determined Soviet opposition — the conclusion of a peace treaty with Japan which restored that key nation of Asia to the community of nations.

So in the five years which followed the second World War we could look back upon some successes and some failures. We could also look forward to further — and possibly greater — trials. Our economic and defense programs, pursued in cooperation with our friends, were restoring economic health and raising confidence that peace could be maintained. [Let, at the same time, they were causing misgivings in many parts of the world because they seemed to some people to be manifestations of a new imperialism. In fact, the "reservoir of goodwill" for the United States which had existed in many countries was being seriously depleted.]

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### THE ORIGINS OF THE PSYCHOLOGICAL STRATEGY BOARD

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Early in 1951, a feeling developed within the U. S. government that we had to do more than we had done in the past to win and hold the confidence of our friends abroad and weaken the will of our enemies.

This feeling was the result of an evolutionary process. In the departments and agencies of the government a great deal of reflection had been given to the lessons we had learned in the struggle and a general desire had developed to concert our efforts to better effect.

In the years which followed the war, a number of committees had been set up to coordinate the work of different departments and agencies in the information and propaganda fields. These committees had no authority, however, to deal with matters of broad policy or strategy. They could not, for example, challenge decisions which might be economically or militarily sound but psychologically harmful. They worked some distance below the top in the chain of leadership and had little influence on policies and decisions. No committee or agency had the power to develop broad strategic ideas which would bring forth the highest capabilities of all agencies of government.

Furthermore, there was a diffusion of national power among departments, conscious of traditional compartmentation of interests and authority and on guard against intrusion in affairs felt to be their exclusive concern. The interdepartmental difficulties and lack of unified leadership denied to the United States the full value and impact of her bold acts in recent years.

But what was the answer to the problem? Was it possible to develop a strategic concept which would put more order and drive into all phases of our effort? And could we present our policies and acts in such a light that they would strike a responsive chord in the hearts and souls of men and make them feel that their cause was our cause? *Convey them clearly*

In seeking an answer to questions like these, some high officials became convinced that we needed the same kind of unified leadership as in a military struggle. Accordingly, they proposed the appointment of a sort of "chief of staff for the cold war" responsible directly to the President and Commander-in-Chief. This chief of staff, with an advisory board of high-level officials, would work out the broad strategy, fix objectives and priorities, decide the role of each government agency and direct the over-all national effort.

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Others in the government found this proposal too radical. They believed there were sound reasons for the roles which tradition and the statutes had assigned to each government agency. In their opinion, the insertion of a "chief of staff" between the President and the departments would be a needless complication, would probably do harm to our system of government, and would give a warlike cast to a peaceful mission. They suggested that a coordinating mechanism high up in the chain of command or perhaps in one of the major departments might produce a more effective national effort.

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The directive which the President issued on April 4, 1951, was something of a compromise between these views. It did not appoint a chief of staff for the national psychological effort, but it did order some of the highest officers of the government to provide for "the more effective planning, coordination and conduct, within the framework of approved national policies, of psychological operations."

To accomplish this purpose, the President directed that the Under Secretary of State, the Deputy Secretary of Defense and the Director of Central Intelligence should serve as a Psychological Strategy Board. Under them there would be a Director appointed by the President. The Director would have a permanent staff to help him carry out his responsibilities. A representative of the Joint Chiefs of Staff would sit with the Board as its principal military adviser.

The President's order made the Board responsible for the "formulation and promulgation...of over-all national psychological objectives, policies and programs, and for the coordination and evaluation of the national psychological effort." It was to report to the National Security Council on its own activities and on the activities of all agencies engaged in the effort to influence men's minds and wills.

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This was a broad mandate. In setting "over-all national psychological objectives," the Board would identify [exactly] what we were trying to accomplish. Then it would draw up policies and programs to achieve those objectives. It would bring together all the government agencies which could play a part in such programs and find out what they could contribute. It would follow through and make sure that all the agencies were working together and doing their part. It would constantly study the progress of these programs to influence other people in favor of our work for peace and freedom. It would report to the National Security Council on these programs and the over-all effort in the field of psychological strategy.

The Board would have an acute realization that every significant action in the field of foreign affairs by any governmental agency has an effect upon the minds and wills of men. To maximize that effect the government must act in its different spheres according to a common plan which relates all actions together.

\* [The President's directive did not put the Board into the field of operations. The Board would not, for example, manage the Voice of America or any of the information offices which the government had set up in other countries. It was to be a high-level group working in the field of broad strategy and coordination.]

The first Director went to work on July 2, 1951. The Department of State, the Department of Defense and the Central Intelligence Agency lent him enough help to set up the nucleus of a staff. This staff was organized in this way:

1. An Office of Plans and Policy. This staff group works on broad strategic problems, defines the objectives which we should aim at in our psychological effort, and draws up, in cooperation with other agencies, the programs to achieve those objectives.
2. An Office of Coordination. This staff group helps tie together the efforts already under way in the psychological field and follows through on plans and programs approved by the Board.
3. An Office of Evaluation and Review. This staff group obtains from other agencies of the government the intelligence estimates which the staff needs for its work and prepares evaluations of the effectiveness of American psychological operations.
4. An Executive Office for administrative matters.

In recruiting the permanent staff the Director was handicapped at the start, not only by the normal difficulties of recruiting able men in the government, but also by the shortage of experts in psychological strategy and operations. Within the government there were able administrators and specialists for the normal problems of peace. In the armed services could be found many able officers trained in the arts of war. But nowhere within the

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government -- nor for that matter in the nation -- was there any considerable number of men trained to cope with a situation which was "neither war nor peace." [As we Americans had never dreamed of forcing this kind of conflict upon the world, we had made no preparations for it.]

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### SOME MISCONCEPTIONS

Perhaps more serious than any staffing difficulties was the lack of a body of thought on psychological strategy. Because of this there was a great deal of confusion regarding the role of the Board and its staff. Serious apprehensions developed in the minds of people in the established departments and agencies with regard to a possible surrender of traditional authority and responsibility. The result was that they viewed the creation of the Board with something less than unrestrained enthusiasm.

There were also many misconceptions which threatened to hamper the work of the Psychological Strategy Board. Perhaps the most widespread of these was the idea that the Board was to concern itself only with "word warfare". Those who believed this felt that the Board should confine its activity to explaining -- or explaining away -- the decisions or actions of our government in the foreign field. They denied that the Board should have any interest in the decisions or actions themselves. It had to wait until the government moved, and then, for the benefit of foreign peoples, it would put the best possible interpretation on the move. The diplomats would make the political decisions, the military would make the military decisions, the economists would make the economic decisions -- and the Board would make the best of it.

At the other extreme was the belief that the mandate of the Psychological Strategy Board covered just about everything -- everything from the decisions of the President to the hourly bulletins on the Voice of America. Those who favored this belief wanted the Board to be a super-agency which would make foreign policy, develop strategic programs to influence other nations, carry out propaganda operations, and in general have command authority over all government agencies.

A third major obstacle to the Board's early efforts was the deep-seated idea that it is impossible to plan an integrated strategy for our activities to influence the minds and wills of others. The officials who held this view contended that, because of constant international change, it was not practicable nor wise to attempt to put down on paper an adequate statement of our policies and objectives in other parts of the world, which could serve as an accurate and dependable guide. It followed that we could not hope to draw up plans and programs to carry out our national policies and reach our objectives. The situation was much too fluid to permit this. We had to wait and see what our opponents were going to do; then we could improvise a response.

A fourth impediment to the Board's work was the contention that our intelligence from certain parts of the world was not precise enough to permit effective psychological planning and activity.

A fifth was the idea that we could not risk a bold initiative to improve our position in any part of the world until we had completed our military build-up. In the minds of those who held this view, the sound concept of building "situations of strength" had become distorted to mean "situations of military strength." Until we had achieved military equality with, or preponderance over, the Soviet bloc, we could not do much to change the situation in the world to our advantage.

A sixth was the contention that any kind of "strategic planning" must necessarily be military planning.

But perhaps the greatest misconception of all was the widespread impression that the struggle in which we are engaged is a "cold war" — a remote conflict which may go on for ten, fifty or a hundred years without our being able to do very much to bring it to a successful conclusion.

### THE PSB CONCEPT

In the course of their work the Director and his staff reached a number of conclusions on these matters.

In the first place, they quickly made up their minds that the Board's mandate covered a great deal more than word warfare. The task of the Board, they believed, was not to explain -- or explain away -- events but to help shape events. For this reason, they felt that the Board, though not primarily a policy-making body, should strive to obtain wise policies and develop sound programs which would establish an identity between our aims and those of other free nations.

\* On the other hand, the Director and staff did not accept the view that the Board should concern itself with "almost everything." [They felt, particularly, that their instructions to stay out of operational matters were sound.] As they saw it, if the Board became entangled in day-to-day decisions and tried to intervent in all fields of government activity, it would soon cease to be a strategy board and would become a "Board of Improvised Tactics."

In the third place the Director and his staff became convinced that it not only is possible but imperative to plan our efforts to influence men's minds and wills. When a nation projects its budgetary outlays at the rate of \$200,000,000 or more a day, it ~~can~~ afford to make up its policies and programs as it goes along. And when it is facing a ruthless opponent who has given half a century of thought to this kind of conflict, it ~~must~~ buckle down to the grim business of trying to think ahead of him. [In the opinion of the Director and his staff, the U.S. has the capacity to make plans which will retain the psychological initiative for the free world and pin down our opponents on the defensive.]

Fourthly the Director and his staff did not share the view that intelligence deficiencies rule out effective psychological activity. [With ingenuity and imagination, they believed, much effective work can be undertaken on the basis of our present knowledge. Later, as our information improves, adjustments can be made in aims and methods.]

In the fifth place, the Director and staff rejected the view that effective actions to rally our friends and confound our enemies must await the military build-up. They recalled that the Truman Doctrine, the Marshall Plan, the Berlin airlift and other successful programs had been carried out when we had barely one

effective fighting division in Europe. As they saw it, the task for psychological strategy was to help create situations of strength, not to wait for their creation.

Sixth, the Director and the staff recognized that military strategy is a matter for the military, and they welcomed military participation in the assessment of possible repercussions from our activities designed to influence the minds and wills of other peoples. But, they pointed out, we are in a struggle in which we hope that the application of military power will not be the decisive factor. Strategic planning must go forward on the broadest lines and include all elements of pressure and persuasion if we are to succeed in our national effort to preserve peace and extend freedom.

Finally, all the discussion within the staff pointed toward the conclusion that this is not a cold war but a war of wills. The term, cold war, which had been useful in arousing the American people five years ago, is harmful today because it conveys the impression of a remote, impersonal conflict which we are powerless to influence. The Director and his staff believed it is within our power to influence the course of this conflict. They believed that leadership could produce the will in the government, the Congress and the people to turn events in our favor and gradually strengthen the forces working for peace. Perhaps the greatest test and the major contribution, of the Psychological Strategy Board will be the development of such a collective will within the government.

These were some of the convictions which grew out of the work of the Director and his staff.

### THE PSYCHOLOGICAL STRATEGY BOARD TODAY

By the end of 1951, a large part of the staff had been gathered. The Director had at his disposal an able and dedicated group of men and women from the Department of State, the Department of Defense, the Central Intelligence Agency, the Mutual Security Administration and from private enterprise. It was contemplated that the staff would remain small by governmental standards. Altogether it would number about seventy-five persons, including professional, clerical and administrative personnel.

The efforts of this staff were supplemented by panels of experts drawn from all the agencies of government and by consultants from the outside. These efforts covered a wide field — plans for worldwide informational activity in connection with developments in Korea, a broad strategic concept for the war of wills, a program for helping political fugitives from the iron curtain countries, an inventory of our resources for influencing men's minds and wills, a catalogue of useful research projects in the social sciences. (A comprehensive list of projects completed or begun is given in the classified annexes.)

As the work progressed the members of the Board developed a corporate spirit and a sense of purpose. Formal meetings to approve new projects and hear reports on projects already under way were held about every three weeks. Informal luncheon meetings were held every week for exchanges of views on the Board's problems. At the meetings each member of the Board came up with ideas for new activities and each member made his contribution to the reports which set new projects in motion.

Much spade-work, of course, remains to be done. The first Director had to leave to his successor many problems of staff procedure and organization, as well as problems of policy and strategy. But it can be said that the Psychological Strategy Board is definitely a going concern. In a little more than half a year's time, the concept of combined operations, with all agencies of governmentconcerting their efforts toward a common end, has gained ground. Much work, which might not have been undertaken if there had been no Board, has been started and some concrete results have been achieved. It still is too early to say whether the Board is the answer to the problem which it was designed to meet, but it has made a worthwhile start.

The experience to date, however, has suggested a number of changes which would strengthen the Board without essentially altering its structure.

1. The Director should be made Chairman of the Board, possibly without a vote. This is because the Director alone is giving his full attention to psychological strategy; the three members of the Board have other responsibilities which take much of their time and energy. As Chairman of the Board, the Director would be in a much stronger position to exercise the leadership which is needed.
2. The Director should sit with the National Security Council when it considers matters of interest to the Board. This would permit him to advise the Council on the psychological dangers or advantages of different lines of policy.
3. The Director should informally report to the President at regular intervals. Psychological strategy is -- and must remain -- an instrument of the President and Commander-in-Chief. Frequent talks with the Director would help the President make more effective use of an instrument which can be valuable to him, and would put the driving force of his leadership behind our national psychological effort.
4. The Chairman or a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff should sit with the Board as its military adviser. This would eliminate delays and misunderstandings which arise when a subordinate officer sits for the Joint Chiefs.

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These changes would help the Board to do a better job. For the moment they appear to be all that is necessary. On the basis of the experience to date it does not appear desirable to give the Board a statutory base or to make other drastic modifications in its charter.

Nevertheless, it must be frankly recognized that a great deal more than the four adjustments recommended above will be needed to assure success in the war of wills.

The members of the Board must be determined to exercise their mandate vigorously and effectively and to make full use of the available resources. Just as important, the staffs of their

departments and of other agencies of government must be ready to participate in the Board work with a sense of the role of leadership which America is called upon to play. This is no time to let rivalries between agencies or the passion for the lowest common denominator in ideas determine the scope of our national effort.

If failures of this kind should prevent the Board from effectively discharging its mandate, it will be necessary to reconsider the possibility of setting up a more centralized direction of the national effort in the war of wills.

### THE TASK AHEAD

The year 1952 is a year of decision.

In some parts of the world the situation may grow worse before it gets better. We must remember that the government of the second strongest power in the world is working tirelessly to make things worse wherever it can. It is working to permeate the world with a spirit of hopelessness, futility and desperation. It is working to turn men's hearts against us, [to make men feel that we Americans are the real disturbers of the peace, that we are deliberately plotting a new war.] It is using the armed force of its puppets and the threat of its own military power to accomplish what it could never hope to accomplish by the force of its ideas.

We must meet this challenge -- but we must meet it in our own way. Basically, this is not a conflict between the United States and the Soviet Union as nations. It is one of the great convulsions of history which a band of conspirators in the Kremlin is seeking to exploit for its own ends. Our role, as we have seen, is to lead the peoples who prize freedom through this period of convulsion so that each nation, in its own way, may be free to enrich our common heritage in an era of peace and human dignity.

This role of leadership cannot be met by unplanned improvisation. We must remember that in the field of international affairs no major decision or action can be taken by our government without some effect -- favorable or unfavorable -- on the hearts, the minds and the wills of men. Thus it is imperative that the policies we make, the plans we adopt, the acts we perform should be part of, and conform to, an enlightened psychological strategy designed to establish a community of interests in the differing aspirations of America and the peoples who have the will to be free.

Our role of leadership calls for the best in the character of the American people. It requires of our people a spirit of resolution, a willingness to sacrifice, an effort of understanding and a flow of generosity -- generosity of the heart even more than generosity of the purse. Perhaps the truest psychological strategy is that we should so conduct ourselves as a nation that we shall appear worthy of the role of leadership which has come upon us.

TOP SECRET - SECURITY INFORMATION

1. PROJECTS COMPLETED OR BEGUN

- A. Office of Plans and Policy
- B. Office of Coordination
- C. Office of Evaluation and Review
- D. Director's Staff
- E. Executive Office

2. PRESIDENTIAL DIRECTIVE, APRIL 4, 1951

3. ROLE OF PSYCHOLOGICAL STRATEGY BOARD UNDER 4/4/51

PRESIDENTIAL DIRECTIVE

TOP SECRET - SECURITY INFORMATION

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April 4, 1951

DIRECTIVE TO: The Secretary of State  
The Secretary of Defense  
The Director of Central Intelligence

It is the purpose of this directive to authorize and provide for the more effective planning, coordination and conduct, within the framework of approved national policies, of psychological operations.

There is hereby established a Psychological Strategy Board responsible, within the purposes and terms of this directive, for the formulation and promulgation, as guidance to the departments and agencies responsible for psychological operations, of over-all national psychological objectives, policies, and programs, and for the coordination and evaluation of the national psychological effort.

The Board will report to the National Security Council on the Board's activities and on its evaluation of the national psychological operations, including implementation of approved objectives, policies, and programs by the departments and agencies concerned.

For the purposes of this directive, psychological operations shall include all activities (other than overt types of economic warfare) envisioned under NSC 59/1 and NSC 10/2 the operational planning and execution of which shall remain, subject to this directive, as therewith assigned.

The Board shall be composed of:

- a. The Undersecretary of State, the Deputy Secretary of Defense, and the Director of Central Intelligence, or, in their absence, their appropriate designees;
- b. An appropriate representative of the head of each such other department or agency of the Government as may, from time to time, be determined by the Board.

The Board shall designate one of its members as Chairman.

A representative of the Joint Chiefs of Staff shall sit with the Board as its principal military adviser in order that the Board may ensure that its objectives, policies and programs shall be related to approved plans for military operations.

There is established under the Board a Director who shall be designated by the President and who shall receive compensation of \$30,000 per year. The Director shall direct the activities under the Board. In carrying out this responsibility, he shall

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- a. Be responsible for having prepared the programs, policies, reports, and recommendations for the Board's consideration,
- b. Sit with the Board and be responsible to it for organizing its business and for expediting the reaching of decisions,
- c. Promulgate the decisions of the Board,
- d. Ascertain the manner in which agreed upon objectives, policies, and programs of the Board are being implemented and coordinated among the departments and agencies concerned,
- e. Report thereon and on his evaluation of the national psychological operations to the Board together with his recommendations,
- f. Perform such other duties necessary to carry out his responsibilities as the Board may direct.

The Director, within the limits of funds and personnel made available by the Board for this purpose, shall organize and direct a staff to assist in carrying out his responsibilities. The Director shall determine the organization and qualifications of the staff, which may include individuals employed for this purpose, including part-time experts, and/or individuals detailed from the participating departments and agencies for assignment to full-time duty or on an ad hoc task force basis. Personnel detailed for assignment to duty under the terms of this directive shall be under the control of the Director, subject only to necessary personnel procedures within their respective departments and agencies.

The participating departments and agencies shall afford to the Director and the staff such assistance and access to information as may be specifically requested by the Director in carrying out his assigned duties.

The heads of the departments and agencies concerned shall examine into the present arrangements within their departments and agencies for the conduct, direction and coordination of psychological operations with a view toward readjusting or strengthening them if necessary to carry out the purposes of this directive. The Secretary of State is authorized to effect such readjustments in the organization established under NSC 59/1 as he deems necessary to accomplish the purposes of this directive.

This directive does not authorize the Board nor the Director to perform any "psychological operations."

In performing its functions, the Board shall utilize the maximum extent the facilities and resources of the participating departments and agencies.

/s/ Harry Truman

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Annex 3.

(Statement Approved by the Psychological Strategy Board)

28 September 1951

Role of Psychological Strategy Board under 4/4/51 Presidential Directive

The President's Directive creates the Psychological Strategy Board to provide more effective planning of psychological operations within the framework of approved national policies, to coordinate the psychological operations of all departments and agencies of government, and to evaluate the effectiveness of the national psychological effort.

The members of the Board are the Under Secretary of State, the Deputy Secretary of Defense, and the Director of Central Intelligence. The Director, appointed by the President, sees that the decisions of the Board are carried out. A representative of the Joint Chiefs of Staff sits with the Board as its principal military adviser; and the Board may add to its number from time to time appropriate representatives of the heads of other governmental units.

The Board is the nerve-center for strategic psychological operations. At the apex of government, it provides a focal point for assuring the planned use by all governmental units of activities to influence the opinions, attitudes, emotions and behavior of foreign groups in ways that will support the achievement of our approved national aims. Through the Board, the President is enabled to turn to one body, instead of many, for a prompt assessment of these psychological operations--as to magnitude, emphasis, pace, effectiveness, and responsibility for execution. Thus, a unified base is afforded from which to take from an enemy the initiative in psychological operations.

The Board itself does not engage in operations. It is not concerned with day-to-day problems arising in the psychological field, except as they may affect programs toward major strategic objectives. The Directive reposes in the Board the responsibility for overall psychological policies, objectives, and programs, and their coordination among the various departments and agencies; provides for adjustments to be made by such departments and agencies in their existing arrangements in this regard; and amends previous National Security Council instructions to that extent.

To execute its role:

1. The Board will prepare, in order to determine the framework of its action under the Directive, an inventory of those approved national policies which may directly or indirectly involve psychological operations; recommending to the appropriate agencies the adoption or development of such additional policies as may directly or indirectly involve psychological operations.

2. In support of such approved national policies, the Board will formulate and promulgate overall policies, programs, and objectives for psychological operations; including overall strategic plans in such detail as to enable operational planning by departments and agencies.

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3. The Board will stimulate all departments and agencies engaged in operations having psychological aspects, to set up effective psychological operational plans:

a. by assigning to such departments and agencies the preparation of psychological operational plans to carry out any part of such overall strategic plans as to which no psychological operational planning has been initiated;

b. by reviewing all psychological operational plans already initiated by departments and agencies in order to assure that they are consistent with such overall strategic plans, determining those plans which may be left to the initiating departments and agencies without further action by the Board and those plans as to which the Board should take some further action.

4. The Board will determine as to the various psychological operational plans: (1) emphasis, (2) priority, and (3) pace.

5. The Board will coordinate the execution by departments and agencies of all such plans within the framework of overall strategic plans.

6. The Board will evaluate the programs of departments and agencies and their execution through psychological operational plans, in terms of effective accomplishment of the national psychological effort; selecting programs and plans for evaluation which are most important to the attainment of national objectives.

(End)

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APPROVAL  INFORMATION  SIGNATURE  
 ACTION  DIRECT REPLY  RETURN  
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REMARKS: The President has asked the DCI to analyze the attached report by [REDACTED] and to advise on the desirability of publishing all or any part of it. The DCI will take this analysis to the White House on Friday, 29 February. He should have it on his desk no later than Thursday, 28 February, at 2:00 PM.

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